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Measuring Western Australia's progress

A special feature article, 'Measures of Western Australia's Progress', is included in Western Australian Statistical Indicators (cat. no. 1367.5) released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The article uses a variety of indicators to gauge social, economic and environmental progress in WA over the past 10 years. They include:

Work: WA's unemployment rate fell by 2.7 percentage points between 1995 and 2005 (from 7.4% to 4.7%).

State income: Between 1994-95 and 2004-05, disposable income per person grew by around 4% a year.

Economic hardship: Between 1994-95 and 2003-04, the disposable income of "less well-off" Western Australians grew by 15%.

Housing: In 2004, 69% of WA householders owned their homes outright or were paying them off. This is down slightly from 70% in 1995.

Productivity: During 1994-95 to 2004-05, labour productivity in Western Australia rose 21%.

The air and atmosphere: In 2004, Western Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be 69 megatonnes carbon dioxide-equivalent -- 9% higher than in 2003, and 20% higher than in 1990.

Family, community and social cohesion: In 2005, lone mother families accounted for 19% (43,000) of all families in Western Australia with children under 15 years of age, an increase from 16% (32,000) in 1995.

Crime: The personal crime rate in Western Australia has shown no change between 1998 and 2005.

The feature article can be found in the September quarter **Western Australian Statistical Indicators** (cat. no. 1367.5) and uses ABS and other data.

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